omitted in
its proper
place.

Mint of the United States
Philada. Decr. 23. 1828

Sir

In compliance with the request of the Committee on the Mint communicated in your letter of the 18th I subjoin a statement of the condition of this Establishment, and submit for their consideration such provisions for the extension thereof as appear due to the expanded field of its operations.

On the first establishment of the Mint there was purchased under the Act of March 2d. 1793 a house and lot on Seventh Street and one other lot fronting on a fourteen feet alley, being the divisions marked A and B in the delineation No. 1 herewith sent. Under a subsequent Act of July 2d. 1795, a third lot marked C was purchased, fronting on the aforesaid alley and extending Northward to a private court and separated from the lots before mentioned by a four feet alley common to all the property bounding thereon.

No other grounds or buildings were purchased for the accommodation of the Mint. It was however from an early period found necessary to acquire an extension of the above limits, and the lot marked E and section No. 5 of lot D were accordingly obtained on rent, the former from year to year, the latter for a term of years.

Not only has this extension of space been found highly useful and was absolutely necessary since the extension of the operations of the Mint by the application of steam power but the occupancy of these lots was indispensable for securing the exclusive use of the alley on which they bound, the privilege of which any other occupant might have claimed, thus subjecting the interior of the Mint to intrusion and exposure: a result wholly inadmissible.

The first mentioned lot number E which has for a long period been held as before mentioned at an annual rent, which in recent years has been Sixty dollars per annum, was last summer in a division of the estate to which it pertained offered for sale. The necessity of retaining it within our control made it advisable that an Officer of the Mint should purchase it, from whom it is now rented at the aforesaid rate which is the interest of the purchase money. It is held subject to the option of the United States to become the purchaser at the same price. It may therefore be considered as effectually within

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the contract of the Mint and is therefore delineated as if it were public property.

A brief notice of the application and character of the buildings forming the group occupied by the Mint will complete this outline of the establishment.

No. 1 was a dwelling house when purchased or rather two dwelling houses, built of brick three stories high. Under it are our vaults. The first floor embraces the receiving and weighing room and one press room. The second floor is appropriated to the accommodation of all the Officers except the Assayer three of whom occupy one apartment. The Assay furnace and office of the Assayer are on the third floor—an arrangement exceedingly inappropriate from the character of the chemical agents employed but no better location has been practicable. This building is after the most ordinary manner customary fifty years ago without any pretensions to design or arrangement. The stairway by which all must reach the offices is a dark winding passage in which a lamp is kept burning through the day.

The space No. 2 is a small paved yard and passage to the remote buildings.

No 3 is a two story brick building erected in 1816 when steam power was first substituted for that of horses for rolling the Ingots &c. It contains the steam Engine and machinery pertaining thereto skilfully arranged. This department of the works has hitherto been found competent to its design and is even capable of more than has yet been required. The Engine is of the power of about ten horses.

No 4 is a small frame building rudely in construction formerly a stable and of little value. It is however the place of deposite for nearly all our coined and uncoined copper.

No 5 is a two story brick building which contains the melting and refining furnaces, so deficient in its dimensions although the refining furnace occupies the cellar, that all the dependent operations are often retarded by the insufficiency of the accommodation. How illy adapted to the exigencies of the establishment were the facilities it possessed was strongly exemplified in the erection of this essential building on a lot leased for a brief term which expired some years since. The building and lot are now held from year to year. It may be readily imagined that under these circumstances the annual rent at which possession of this property is continued to us must be highly disproportionate to its value in any other application of it.

No 6 is a small two story frame building slightly constructed: it contains on the first floor the press by which most of our silver is coined and is in daily use for that purpose. No 7 is a small two story brick house old & dilapidated in which the cent coinage is executed. Above these two is a shop for making and repairing machinery. No 8 is a smith shop and No 9 a coal house, both roughly boarded and covered in the same manner. This whole range presents an aspect singularly unsuited to the important uses to which some parts of it have been so many years appropriated.

The lot E has no building on it, but is employed as a woodyard. The four feet alley before mentioned being thus wholly under the control of the Mint, is of course closed against all participation in its use.

Under the deficiencies thus exhibited the operations of the Mint have hitherto been accomplished, generally with an efficiency commensurate with the supply of bullion. No part of this supply it may be remarked is furnished by the Government: it is wholly derived from individuals or incorporated companies, solicited and encouraged only by the privilege tendered to the depositor from the first establishment of the Mint, that he should receive in coins free of charge all the fine metal contained in his deposite. The good policy of this provision has been manifested by the result. It has enabled the Mint to emit more than thirty Millions of gold and silver since its establishment and more than half that amount in the last ten years, as will appear by referring to the report on the operations of the Mint for 1829. Not only these facilities appear requisite to perpetuate a copious supply of bullion hereafter, but to insure to the depositor the prompt coinage of it.

It belongs to the present enquiry to trace the gradations by which the supply of bullion has hitherto been increased. The annual report before mentioned presents a variety of general results pertinent to this point; it may however be satisfactory to the Committee to present the facts according to a series somewhat varied. In doing this round numbers will be sufficiently precise.

The whole amount of coinage from 1794 to 1800 inclusive, making a period of seven years was in round numbers $2,534,000. the average annual amount was $362,000. the greatest production in one year was $646,000 being the coinage of 1799.

The coinage in ten years from 1801 to 1810 amounted to $6,971,000: the annual average was $697,000 and the greatest amount in one year $1,156,000, being the coinage of 1810.

The coinage in ten years from 1811 to 1820 was $9,328,000. Rejecting two years which may be considered as lost through the effects of the war, and counting the period as eight years instead of ten, the average annual amount will be $1,156,000: the greatest amount in one year was $1,864,000, being the coinage of 1820.

The amount coined in the last seven years from 1821 to 1827, was $11,632,000: the average annual amount $1,662,000 and the greatest amount in one year $3,024,000, being the coinage of 1827.

Of the amount last mentioned more than two thirds were received from the United State Bank, the source from which the largest part of our deposites is constantly derived, and to the agency of which may be assigned the rapid progression by which the emissions from the Mint have been increased within recent years.

With the preceding view it may be proper to give also some of the general results exhibited in the report for last year from which the following is an extract.

"Within the first fifteen years of the operations of the establishment beginning with 1793 and ending with 1807 the amount coined was $6,482,613.65½: during the succeeding ten years ending with 1817 the amount coined was $7,715,979.85 and within the last ten years $16,266,850.61"

"The average annual coinage of the first period above mentioned, it will be found was $432,174.24 that of the second $771,597.98 and that of the last period $1,626,685.06. The coinage of the last year exceeds by nearly a million of dollars that of any year preceding and is nearly two fold the annual amount of the period to which it belongs."

Whichever series of results may be selected the fact appears the same, that the average in given periods advances by an accelerated difference, and the inference is rendered altogether probable that in the ten years commencing with the present the average annual coinage will exceed $2,500,000, and that in some years of that period the amount will be nearly $5000000.

The progressive increase though obvious in successive periods of seven or ten years, is by no means regular, being disturbed by various causes. The present year is an example, during a great part of which the high price of exchange has strongly tended to induce the shipment of silver to Europe, in many of those forms under which it usually comes to the Mint. The amount of coinage for this year will therefore but little exceed the average of the last three years. There are however already evident indications that this state of things is drawing to a close, and it would not be remarkable if the pressure on the Mint should be unusually great for a few years to come. If it should amount to more than three Millions the capacity of the Mint is not competent or not ~~adequate~~ to the execution of the amount without onerous delay, which would occasionally extend to four or five months, by which it is obvious that the policy of inducing bullion to flow into the Country in the returns of commerce, by the facility of prompt coinage free of charge, is sensibly defeated.

One facility due to commercial enterprise and which it is beyond our power to afford now merits particular notice. Silver bullion brought from certain districts of Spanish America is known to contain gold in a valuable proportion. Application has been made to several Houses having extensive chemical laboratories to induce them to devote a part of their attention to the process of separating it, but without success. It must be brought under the cognizance of the Mint if accomplished in this country. In a few instances it has been effected to a small extent in the Assayer department; but the agent which must be employed to effect it with the requisite economy, can not be used, in the large way, in any apartment we possess, nor is there space at command where a suitable laboratory for the purpose could be constructed. We have therefore in several instances seen with much regret, silver bullion of this character withdrawn from the vaults of the Mint, and exported to France or England to be separated in the refineries there.

The draft exhibits the character and location of the buildings adjoining the Mint. Few remarks are necessary as to the inexpediency of having private dwellings and private cellars adjoining our coining rooms and specie vaults. The danger may not be very great and, in fact, internal watchfulness and caution have hitherto averted all disaster and may continue to do so. The exposure is not however, unworthy of regard. There is real danger though it may not be imminent, and it is obviously very desirable that the Mint should be detached from all contact with private dwellings.

I proceed to the enquiry what improvements in the condition and facilities and machinery of the Mint establishment are considered necessary.

As repairs or rebuilding of the present buildings

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would afford an adequate improvement. The rooms appropriated to the several offices which ought to be separately accommodated are far too contracted for the purpose and can not be extended. There is no suitable place for the Assayer's department. A chemical laboratory adapted to the process of parting gold and silver is wholly precluded, and the introduction of Machinery for effecting the coinage by steam power is impracticable.

In order to present a specific plan of an adequate suite of buildings, the draft No. 2 is offered as an example exhibiting one of the forms in which adequate buildings might be arranged occupying the smallest area which could be deemed sufficient. This form is selected, not because there are no other plans equally eligible, but because this may be realized on the present site with the addition of certain adjoining lots. It consists of a front edifice containing the several offices and apartments of business connected with them, and protecting the vaults: two parallel ranges of working rooms and an extensive building on the rear to accommodate additional machinery. The whole detached from all the adjacent dwellings.

~~[illegible] the urgent improvements in the construction and machinery of the Mint Establishment are considered necessary.~~

~~No repair or rebuilding of the present structures would afford an adequate improvement.~~

To construct this Establishment on the present site of the Mint would require that the ground extending to the fourteen feet Alley on the South and to the private court on the North and embracing the lot II on the East should be purchased. These with the ground already occupied by the Mint would form an area 90 feet in front and 150 feet deep, leaving a vacant space of ten feet on the East. It is believed that these additional lots might be obtained at from twelve to fifteen thousand dollars. Not much advantage could be derived from any of the buildings now occupied by the Mint except No. 3 which might be retained, and made to form a part of the arrangement delineated.

The expense of constructing the requisite buildings may be estimated at from 50 to 60 thousand dollars. Much would depend on the style of the front edifice. It should be in good taste. The extent of the appropriation would afford some criterion by which to judge of the expectation entertained in this regard. The other buildings should possess all the advantages of solidity which well adjusted proportions, symmetry and aptitude could exhibit, the cheap and enduring style of beauty in an edifice.

The question of the title of the principal edifice is a public concern of some little moment, and will claim due consideration. My special object is an official establishment which may accomplish the design of this Institution with a promptitude commensurate with the expectations of the Government and the wants of the public.

To secure this capacity for enlarged operations the new combinations of machinery devised and executed by Mr. Boulton and adopted in some of the Mints of Europe ought to be had in view and a suitable portion appropriated for its reception and employment at an early period. This topic has been the subject of some preliminary enquiries addressed to Mr Boulton in 1827. From his reply it appears that so much of his system of machinery as it might be desirable to introduce would cost about £ 7000 at Liverpool.

It is understood that machinery of this description constructed by Mr Boulton for a Mint in South America is now in New York for sale. If this should be found adapted to our purpose it would be prudent to embrace the opportunity of securing it: the expense it is presumed would be as low as the price charged by Mr Boulton at Liverpool.

It would be desirable that the provisions for extending the Mint establishment should leave an option to enlarge it on the present site or on a new one as should be found expedient. This would at least enhance the chance of obtaining the object in view on more favorable terms.

If the Committee perceive in the considerations presented sufficient reason for an extension of the Mint establishment I beg leave to add that the measure may not be deferred if practicable to accomplish it during this session. In every department repairs have been procrastinated when it was possible in the belief that something more than repairs would ere long be deemed proper. The roof of our front building is in a decayed state and ought to be renewed if it is to be used much longer. The state of others of the buildings has been before mentioned, and it is proper to add that the boiler of our steam Engine has been in use since 1816 and it is not proper to rely on it much longer. It is to be wished that when renewed it should form a part of the improved establishment with a proportional enlargement. Up to the present time the power of the Mint has been generally adequate to the coinage demanded without vexatious delay. The time cannot be far distant and is probably very near when the demand with [illegible] its capacity. On the whole, I trust the Committee will be of opinion that it will be wise to authorise an extension of this establishment, and expedient to do it now. A considerable time must elapse before any thing can be accomplished effectually. Every step will require to be taken with studious care that there may be nothing deficient or superfluous.

The Committee will I hope excuse the expression of some sensitiveness on account of the repulsive aspect which the group of buildings appropriated to the Mint presents. A transient allusion to this is alone intended. Were I however to press this consideration with some earnestness I should be sustained by the tenor of the remarks made by all the members of Congress who have visited us — a feeling of concern having been uniformly expressed by them that an exterior so unsightly should characterise an institution so eminently national.

I am very respectfully
Your obed.t Serv.t
Saml Moore

Hon.l John Sergeant
Chairman Committee
on the Mint

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia

December 23, 1828

Honorable John Sergeant
Chairman, Committee on the Mint

Sir:
In compliance with the request of the Committee on the Mint, as enumerated in your letter of the 18th, I subjoin a statement of the condition of this establishment, and submit for their consideration such provisions for the inclusion thereof as appear due to the expanded field of its operations.

On the first establishment of the Mint, there were purchased under the Act of March 2, 1793, a house and lot on Seventh Street, and one other lot fronting on a fourteen foot alley, being the divisions marked A and B in the illustration No. 1, herewith sent. Under a subsequent Act of July 2, 1795, a third lot marked C was purchased, fronting on the aforesaid Alley and extending Northwest to a private court and separated from the lots before mentioned by a four foot Alley common to all the property bordering thereon.

No other grounds or buildings were purchased for the accommodation of the Mint. It was however from an early period found necessary to acquire an extension of the above limits and the lot marked E and section No. 5 of lot D was accordingly obtained on rent, the former from year to year, the latter for a term of years.

Not only has this extension of space been found highly useful and near absolutely necessary since the extension of the operation of the Mint by the application of those processes, but the occupancy of those lots was indispensable for securing the exclusive use of the alley on which they bounded the privilege of which any other occupant might have desired thus exposing the interior of the Mint to intrusion and exposure a result wholly undesirable.

The first mentioned lot indicated E which had for a long period been held as before mentioned at an annual rent, which in recent years has been sixty dollars per annum, and last secxxxxx in a division of the estate to which it pertained offered for sale. The necessity of retaining it within our control made it advisable that an Officer of the Mint should purchase it, from whom it is now rented at the foresaid rate which is the intent of the purchase money. It is held subject to the option of the United States to become the purchaser at the same price. It may therefore be considered an offering within the contract of the Mint and is therefore delineated as if it was public property.

A brief notice of the application and character of the buildings forming the group occupied by the Mint will complete this description of the establishment.

No. 1 was a dwelling house when purchased, or rather two dwelling houses, built of brick three stories high. Under it are our vaults. The first floor contains the receiving and weighing room and our press room. The second floor is appropriated to the accommodation of all the officers except the Assayer three of whom occupy one apartment. The Assay furnace and office of the Assayer are in the third floor, an arrangement exceedingly inappropriate for the character of the chemical agents employed but no better location has been practicable. This building is after the most ordinary manner customary fifty years ago without any pretention, to design or [embellishment]. The stairway by which all must reach the offices, is a dark winding passage in which a lamp is kept burning through the day.

The space No. 2 is a small paved yard and passage to the remote buildings.

No. 3 is a two story high building in 1815 when steam power was first substituted for that of horses for rolling the ingots etc. It contains the steam Engine and machinery pertaining thereto skillfully arranged. This department of the works has little to have found incompetent to its design and is even capable of more than has yet been required. The Engine is of the power of about ten horses.

No. 4 is a small frame building sturdily constructed, formerly a stable and of little value, it is however the place of deposit for nearly all our coined and uncoined copper.

No. 5 is a two story brick building which contains the milling and refining furnaces, so deficient in its divisions, although the refining furnace occupies the cellar, that all the department operations are often retarded by the inefficiency of the accommodations. How illy adapted to the exigencies of the establishment were the facilities it possesses was thoroughly [compromised] in the erection of this partial building on a lot leased for a brief time which expired some years since. This building and lot are now leased from year to year. It may be readily imagined that under these circumstances the annual rent at which possession of this property is continued to is much too highly disproportioned to its value than any other application of it.

No. 6 is a small two story frame building lightly constructed: it contains on the first floor the press by which most of our silver is coined and is in daily use for that purpose. No. 7 is a small two story brick house old and dilapidated in which the cent coinage is executed. Above there, too, is a shop for making and repairing machinery. No. 8 is a smith shop and No. 9 a coal house; both roughly boarded and covered in the same manner. This whole range presents an aspect singularly unsuited to the important uses to which some part of it has been to many years appropriated.

The lot E has no building on it, but is employed as a wood yard. The four foot alley before mentioned bring them wholly under the control of the Mint, is of course closed against all participation in its use.

Under the definitions there exhibited the operations of the Mint have hitherto been accomplished, generally with an efficiency commensurate with the supply of bullion. No part of this supply it may be remarked is furnished by the Government: it is wholly derived from individuals or incorporated companies, solicited and encouraged only, by the privilege tendered to the depositor from the first establishment of the Mint, that he should receive in coins free of charge all the fine metal contained in his deposit. The good policy of this provision has been manifested by the result. It has enabled the Mint to emit more than thirty millions of gold and silver since its establishment and more than half that amount in the last ten years, as will appear by referring to the report on the operations of the Mint for 1827. So far the facilities appear requisite to perpetuate a copious supply of bullion hereafter, but to inure to the depositors the prompt coinage of it.

It belongs to the present inquiry to trace the graduations by which the supply of bullion has hitherto been received. The annual report before mentioned presents a variety of general results pertinent to this point; it may however be satisfactory to the committee to present the facts according to a [basis] somewhat varied. In doing this [xxxxx xxxxxxx] will be insufficiently precise.

The whole amount of coinage from 1794 to 1800 inclusive, making a period of seven years, was in round numbers $2,524,000; the average annual amount was $302,000, the greatest production in one year was $646,000 being the coinage of 1799.

The coinage in ten years from 1801 to 1810 amounted to $6,971,000; the annual average was $697,000 and the greatest amount in one year $1,156,000, being the coinage of 1810.

The coinage in ten years from 1811 to 1820 was $9,328,000. Rejecting two years which be considered lost through the effects of the war, and counting the period as eight years instead of ten, the average annual amount will be $1,156,000; the greatest amount in one year was $1,864,000, being the coinage of 1820.

The amount coined in the last seven years from 182 to 1827, was $11,632,000; the average annual amount $1,662,000 and the greatest amount in one year $3,024,000 being the coinage of 1827.

Of the amount last mentioned more than two thirds were received from the United States Bank, the source from which the largest part of our deposits is consistently derived, and to the agency of which may be assigned the rapid progression by which the emissions from the Mint have been increased within recent years.

With the preceding view it may be proper to give also some of the general results exhibited in the report for last year from which the following is an extract.

“Within the past fifteen years of operation of the establishment beginning in 1793 and ending with 1807 the amount coined was $6,482,613.68 ½; during succeeding ten years ending with 1817 that amount coined was $7,715,979.85, and within the last ten years $16,266,850.61.”

“The average annual coinage of the first period above mentioned, it will be found was $422,174.24 that of the second $771,597.98 and that of the last period $1,626,685.06. The coinage of the last year exceeded by nearly a million of dollars that of any year preceding and is nearly two fold the annual amount of the period to which it belongs.”

Whichever view of results may be intended, the facts appear the same: that the coinage in given periods advances by an accumulated difference, and the inference is understood altogether probable that in the ten years commencing with the previous the average annual coinage will exceed $2,000,000, and that in some years of that period the amount will be nearly $5,000,000.

The progressive increase though, obvious in successive periods of five or ten years, is by no means regular, being disturbed by various causes. The present year is an example, during a great part of which the high price of exchange has thoroughly tended to induce the shipment of silver to Europe, in many of those forms under which it usually comes to the Mint. The amount of coinage for this year will therefore but little increase the average of the last seven years. There are, however, already evident indications that this state of things is drawing to a close and it will not be remarkable if the pressure on the Mint should be increased quite a few years to come. If it should amount to more than these millions, the capacity of the Mint is not competent to the execution of the amount without onerous delay, which would occasionally extend to four or five months, by which, it is obvious, that the policy of inducing bullion to flow into the Country in the interest of commerce, by the facility of prompt coinage free of charge, is immediately defeated.

This frailty due to commercial enterprise, and which it is beyond our power to affect, now merits particular notice. Silver bullion brought from certain districts of Spanish America is known to contain gold in a valuable proportion. Application has been made to several Houses having extensive chemical laboratories to induce these to devote a part of their attention to the process of separating it, but without success. It must be brought under the ingeniousness of the Mint if accomplished in this country. In a few instances it has been effected to a small extent in the Assayers department; but the agent which must be employed to effect it with the requisite recovery, can not be used, in this large way, in any apartment we possess. Nor is there space at our command where a suitable laboratory for the purpose could be constructed. We have therefore in several instances seen, with much regret, silver bullion, of this character, withdrawn from the vaults of the Mint, and imported [sic] to France of England to be separated in the refineries there.

This draft exhibits the character and location of the building adjoining the Mint. Few remarks are necessary as to the inexpediency of having private dwellings and private cellars adjoining our coining rooms and these vaults. The danger may not be very great and, in fact, intense watchfulness and caution have hitherto averted all disturbance and may continue to do so the expense is not however unworthy of regard. There is real danger though it may not be imminent, and it is obviously very desirable that the Mint should be detached from all contact with private dwellings.

I proceed to the inquiry about improvements in the condition and facilities and machinery of the Mint establishment as considered necessary.

No report on buildings of the present institution would afford an adequate improvement. The house appropriated to the several officers, which ought to be separately accommodated, is far too constrained for the purpose and can not be extended. There is no suitable place for the Assayer’s department. A chemical laboratory adapted to the process of parting gold and silver is wholly precluded and the introduction of machinery for effecting the coinage by steam power is impracticable.

In order to present a specific plan of an adequate kind of buildings, the draft No. 2 is offered as an example exhibiting one of the forms in which adequate buildings might be erected occupying the smallest area which could be desired sufficient. This form is selected, not because there are no other plans equally capable, but because this may be realized on the present site with the addition of certain adjoining lots. It consists of a front edifice, containing the usual offices and apartments of business connected with them, and protecting the vaults: two parallel courses of working rooms and an extensive building on the rear to accommodate additional machinery. The whole detached from all the adjacent dwellings.

[Two sentences apparently crossed out.]

To construct this Establishment on the present site of the Mint, would require that the ground extending to the fourteen foot alley on the South, and the private court on the North and embracing the lot E on the East should be purchased. These with the ground already occupied by this Mint would form an area 90 feet in front and 150 feet deep, leaving absent space of ten feet on the East. It is believed that these additional lots might be obtained at from twelve to fifteen thousand dollars. Not much advanage could be desired from any of the buildings now occupied by the Mint except No. 3 which might be retained, and made to form a part of the amount delineated.

The expense of constructing the requisite buildings may be estimated at from 50 to 60 thousand dollars. Much would depend on the state of the front edifice. It should be in good taste. The extent of the appropriations would afford some intention by which to judge of the importance entertained in this regard. The other buildings should possess all the advantages of esteem which well adjusted proportions xxxxxx xxxx and aptitude could xxxxx There xxx and xxxx state of beauty in our xxxxx xxxxx.

The question of the state of the principal edifices is a public concern of some little moment, and will claim due consideration. My special object is an official establishment which may accomplish the design of this Institution with a promsstitude commensurate with the expectations of the Government and the wants of the public.

To assess this capacity for coinage operations the same combinations of machinery designed and executed by Mr. [Matthew] Boulton and adopted in some of the Mints of Europe ought to be had in view and a suitable portion appropriated for its installation and employment at an early period. This topic has been the subject of some preliminary inquiries addressed to Mr. Boulton in 1827. From his reply it appears that so much of his system of machinery as it might be desirable to introduce would cost about £7,000 at Liverpool.

It is understood that machinery of this description constructed by Mr. Boulton for a Mint in South America is now in New York for sale. If this should be found adaptive to our purposes it would be judicious to embrace the opportunity of possessing it; the expense it is presumed would be as near as the price charged by Mr. Boulton at Liverpool.

It would be desirable that the provisions for extending the Mint establishment should have an option to enlarge it on the present site or on as near one as should be found expedient. This would at least enhance the [xxxxxxxxx] of obtaining the object in view on more favorable terms.

If the committee persevere in the considerations presented two historical reasons for an extension of the Mint establishment, I beg leave to ask that the measure may not be disposed of, if practicable to accomplish it during this session. In every department repairs have been postponed when it was possible in the belief that something more than repairs would certainly be deemed proper. The roof of our front building is in a decayed state and ought to be examined if it is to be used much longer. The state of others of the buildings has been before mentioned and it is proper to state that the boiler of our steam engine has been in use since 1816 and it is not proper to rely on it much longer, it is to be wished that when removed it should form a part of the improved establishment with a proportional enlargement. Up to the present time the power of the Mint has been generally adequate to the coinage demanded and that variations delay. The time is not too far distant, and is probably very near, when the demand will exceed its capacity. On the whole, I think the Committee will be of opinion that it will be wise to authorize an extension of this establishment, and expedient to do it now. A considerable time must lapse before any thing can be accomplished efficiently. Every step will require to be taken with studious care that there may be nothing deficient or superfluous.

The committee will, I hope excuse the [xxxxxxxxxx] of lines [xxxxxxxxx] on account of the [repre subject], which the [xxxx ] of buildings appropriate to the Mint presents. A transient mention to this is alone intended. Were I, however, to press their consideration with some commitment I should be sustained by the tenor of the remarks made by all the members of Congress who have visited us – a feeling of concern having been uniformly expressed by them that an exterior so unsightly should characterize an institution so eminently national.

I am very respectfully
Your obedient Servant
Samuel Moore